

Message Text

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51

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 MMS-03 DRC-01 /153 W

----- 058738

R 171145Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1014

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1368

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI, XO, CE

SUBJ: JOURNALISTS' VISITS TO DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 100897; COLOMBO 583, 574

1. SO FAR AS SRI LANKA IS CONCERNED, COMMENTS CONTAINED

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COLOMBO 583 AND 574 STILL STAND. ON BALANCE WE CONTINUE

TO BELIEVE THAT JOURNALISTS VISITS TO DIEGO GARCIA WILL
DO US NO GOOD HERE AND MIGHT BE UNHELPFUL.

2. LOOKING AT PROBLEM STRICTLY FROM POINT OF VIEW OF
TIMING, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT, IF VISITS ARE TO TAKE
PLACE, NOW WOULD BE AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY. FOLLOWING
PERIOD OF ALMOST DAILY STORIES UNFAVORABLE TO US/UK
PLANS FOR EXPANSION, COLOMBO PRESS ATTENTION TO DIEGO
GARCIA HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY DIMINISHED, ALTHOUGH IT
CONTINUES. SITUATION IS LIKELY TO REMAIN SO UNTIL NEW
APPROPRIATION OR REQUEST COMES UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION
IN CONGRESS.

3. WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT VISIT BY LOCAL JOURNALIST
WOULD NOT BE USEFUL, BUT IF JOURNALISTS FROM OTHER
COUNTRIES IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA ARE INCLUDED IN ANY
SUCH TOUR, WE WOULD WANT TO MAINTAIN OPTION TO HAVE
CEYLONese JOURNALIST GO ALONG ALSO, DEPENDING ON
SITUATION PREVAILING AT THE TIME.

VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 MAY 1974
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30 JUN 2005

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